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ated. Some of the islands have white inhabitants only; others, notably Andros, are populated almost exclusively by negroes. Degeneration from intermarriage is observable in the islands peopled by whites, even when the original stock was good. For example, in one family of eight children there were five idiots. Except at Nassau cases of leprosy, not uncommon in the Bahamas, are not isolated.

Tables of contagious diseases.—Attention is called to the fact that it is customary to begin new tables of the contagious diseases January 1 and July 1 of each year, omitting the old tables which have been completed in the last number of the Public Health Reports in December and June, respectively.

UNITED STATES.

Circular relative to uniformity in bills of health.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 22, 1905.

To the American consular officers at seaports.

GENTLEMEN: The Department's attention has recently been called to a lack of uniformity in the issuance of bills of health by consular officers. In a letter dated the 9th instant, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor states that for the proper information of the quarantine officers at the port of arrival the original bill of health taken at the port of departure should show the correct number of the crew, including officers, and also the number of cabin and steerage passengers embarking, whether the destination of those passengers is a port of the United States or some intermediate port.

Supplemental bills of health taken at intermediate ports should specify the number and sanitary condition of all persons (passengers or members of the ship's crew) landed at those ports. They should also state the number and sanitary condition of all persons (passengers or members of the ship's crew) taken on at intermediate ports, whether the destination of those persons be a port of the United States or an intermediate port.

The statements mentioned are necessary in order that quarantine officers at the port of arrival in the United States may be enabled to make the different statements agree and to ascertain the exact number of persons of all classes who should be found on board the vessels. You will be careful hereafter to see that all blank spaces in bills and supplemental bills of health are properly filled out and contain the information required.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

HERBERT H. D. PEIRCE,
Third Assistant Secretary.